



# THE WISE FOOL

1 Corinthians 3:18-23

# **1 Corinthians**

## **3:18-23**

18 Let no one deceive himself. If anyone among you thinks that he is wise in this age, let him become a fool that he may become wise.

# **1 Corinthians**

## **3:18-23**

19 For the wisdom of this world is folly with God. For it is written, "He catches the wise in their craftiness," 20 and again, "The Lord knows the thoughts of the wise, that they are futile."

# **1 Corinthians**

## **3:18-23**

21 So let no one boast in men.  
For all things are yours,  
22 whether Paul or Apollos or  
Cephas or the world or life or  
death or the present or the  
future—all are yours, 23 and you  
are Christ's, and Christ is God's.



**Why  
Pursuing  
Godly  
Wisdom  
Is Better  
Than  
Worldly  
Wisdom**

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**Living In Truth Is  
Better Than Self-  
Deception**

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*18a Let no one deceive  
himself.*

**Why  
Pursuing  
Godly  
Wisdom  
Is Better  
Than  
Worldly  
Wisdom**

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**Understanding  
Objectively Is Better  
Than Egotistically**

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*18b If anyone among you  
thinks that he is wise in this  
age, let him become a fool that  
he may become wise.*

# Proverbs 1:1-7

- 1** The proverbs of Solomon, son of David, king of Israel:
- 2** To know wisdom and instruction, to understand words of insight,
- 3** to receive instruction in wise dealing, in righteousness, justice, and equity;
- 4** to give prudence to the simple, knowledge and discretion to the youth—
- 5** Let the wise hear and increase in learning, and the one who understands obtain guidance,
- 6** to understand a proverb and a saying, the words of the wise and their riddles.
- 7** The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction.



# The Use Of Philosophy

- **Personally**, How One Views The World (Titus 1:9; Heb 5:14)
- **Academically**, How One Perceives Truth And Experience
- **Religiously**, How One Comprehends Religious Beliefs And Experience (Acts 26:27-28; 18:4; 19:8)
- **Logically**, How To Analyze With Reason (Isa 1:18; Rom 1:21-22)



**Why  
Pursuing  
Godly  
Wisdom  
Is Better  
Than  
Worldly  
Wisdom**

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**Living In God's  
Reality Is Better  
Than The Web Of  
Self-Deception**

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*19 For the wisdom of this world is folly with God. For it is written, "He catches the wise in their craftiness,"*

# Colossians 2:8

◈ See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ. (NIV)

## Acts 17:17-19

17 So he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and the devout persons ... 18 Some of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers also conversed with him. And some said, "What does this babbler wish to say?" Others said, "He seems to be a preacher of foreign divinities"—because he was preaching Jesus and the resurrection. 19 And they took him and brought him to the Areopagus, saying, "May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting?"



**Why  
Pursuing  
Godly  
Wisdom  
Is Better  
Than  
Worldly  
Wisdom**

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**An Eternal  
Perspective Is Better  
Than A Futility**

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*20 and again, “The Lord knows  
the thoughts of the wise, that  
they are futile.”*



# Psalm 94:11

◆ the LORD—knows the  
thoughts of man, that they  
are but a breath.

**Why The  
Accomplish-  
ments Of God  
Is More  
Admirable  
Than The  
Achievements  
Of Man**

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**Boasting About Man  
Leads To  
Divisiveness**

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*21a So let no one boast in  
men.*

# Jeremiah

## 9:24

◆ but let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the LORD who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth. For in these things I delight, declares the LORD."



**Why The  
Accomplish-  
ments Of God  
Is More  
Admirable  
Than The  
Achievements  
Of Man**

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**Boasting About God  
Leads To Praise**

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*21 b For all things are yours,  
22 whether Paul or Apollos or  
Cephas or the world or life or  
death or the present or the  
future—all are yours, 23 and  
you are Christ's, and Christ is  
God's.*



# Conclusion

- Don't ignore learning about the world, just don't be enamored by it.
- God's wisdom is based on truth, love, revelation and reason.
- Worldly wisdom is temporal, godly wisdom is eternal – prepare for eternity.